

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02568 151118Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 151010Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 872
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2568

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, SW, XA
SUBJECT: THE U.S. CONNECTION TO THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS'
CONSULTATION PROCESS

REF: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 2256, (B) COPENHAGEN 3402

1. EMBASSY HOPES TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT IN SEPTTEL ON THE
SUBSTANCE OF QUESTION OF HOW US MIGHT ENCOURAGE NORDIC SUPPORT
FOR US-UK EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. WITH REGARD TO MORE GENERAL POINTS RAISED BY COPENHAGEN
(ESPECIALLY PARAS 6-7 OF REF B), WE AGREE THAT THERE WOULD BE
UTILITY IN TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT THE NORDIC INSTITUTIONS AS
POSSIBLE VEHICLES FOR CONSIDERATION OF US POLICY ON MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. WE WOULD LIKE HERE MERELY TO DESCRIBE
OUR INTITIAL REACTION. AS REF (B) POINTS OUT, THE AGENDA
OF THE SEMIANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS HAS INCLUDED IN RECENT YEARS INTERNATIONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STOCKH 02568 151118Z

ISSUES WHICH GO WELL BEYOND NORMAL NORDIC UN CONCERNS,
WHICH HAVE BEEN THE TRADITIONAL FOCUS OF THESE MEETINGS.
ISSUES OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE TO US INTERESTS HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED AND US, SOVIET, AND OTHER NON-NORDIC POLICIES,
BY IMPLICATION, HAVE BEEN COMMENTED UPON IN THE FINAL
COMMUNIQUE OF THE LAST SEVERAL MEETINGS. THIS TREND IS
VERY LIKELY TO CONTINUE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE FIVE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE, BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET, OF PERTINENT US POSITIONS AND INTERESTS IN THESE ISSUES. THIS WILL REQUIRE INCREASED ATTENTION ON THE PART OF US EMBASSIES IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO OBTAINING ADVANCE INFORMATION OF THE AGENDA OF FUTURE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS AND CONSULTING BILATERALLY.

3. HAVING SAID THIS, HOWEVER, WE ALSO WISH TO SUGGEST CAUTION AGAINST ATTEMPTING ANY INSTITUTIONAL OR FORMAL LINK WITH THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTER MEETINGS SYSTEM. OUR RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD BE KEPT CAREFULLY BILATERAL. WE BELIEVE THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD RESENT ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THEIR COLLECTIVE DELIBERATIONS DIRECTLY, OR TO HING AT A "US-NORDIC, RELATIONSHIP." GIVEN FINLAND'S SENSITIVE NEUTRALITY, SWEDISH NON-ALIGNMENT, AND NORWEGIAN, DANISH AND ICELANDIC NATO MEMBERSHIP, THE NORDICS WOULD BE MOST RELUCTANT, WE BELIEVE, TO AGREE THAT THEIR SEMIANNUAL MEETINGS REFLECT CONCERNS BROAD ENOUGH TO INVITE OR JUSTIFY REPRESENTATIONS FROM NON-NORDIC POWERS, PARTICULARLY FROM EITHER THE US OR THE SOVIET UNION. TO DEFLECT THE INTERVENTION OF THE SOVIETS, WHOSE INTERESTS ARE EQUALLY AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE TOUCHED UPON IN THESE DELIBERATIONS THAN OURS, THE NORDICS WOULD MOST LIKELY ONLY DISCOURAGE ANY US APPROACHES. SWEDEN IS NOT UNWILLING TO LISTEN CAREFULLY TO US VIEWS; IT IS UNWILLING TO HEAR THEM IN ANY WAY THAT WOULD COMPROMISE NORDIC INSULATION FROM GREAT POWER RIVALRIES. WE SUSPECT

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 02568 151118Z

THE OTHER FOUR NORDIC COUNTRIES WOULD FEEL THE SAME WAY.

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SISTER NORDIC POSTS IN HOW WE MIGHT IMPROVE THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS BEFORE (AND AFTER) NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS. WE HOPE TO KEEP OURSELVES BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE FUNCTIONING OF THESE MEETINGS, PARTICULARLY ON THE PORPOSED AGENDAS, SO THAT MORE TIMELY AND PERHAPS MORE BENEFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS MIGHT BE MADE BEFORE THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND KEY ADVISORS DEPART FOR THE MEETING SITE. ADDITIONALLY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE EMINENTLY WORTHWHILE FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN TO CONSIDER THE WISDOM OF DESPATCHING HIGH-LEVEL IO AND/OR USUN OFFICERS TO THE NORDIC CAPITALS FOR SEPARATE BILATERAL REVIEWS OF UN AGENDA ITEMS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THE US. TO BE MAXIMALLY USEFUL, SUCH CONSULTATIONS SHOULD OCCUR ANNUALLY IN MID-AUGUST TO COINCIDE WITH NORDIC GOVERNMENT PREPARATIONS FOR THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS.

5. IN SUM, WE AGREE FULLY WITH COPENHAGEN ABOUT THE
POSSIBLE BENEFITS FROM GREATER US ATTENTION TO THE NORDIC
INSITTUTIONS; BUT IN PAYING MORE ATTENTION WE SHOULD BE
CAREFUL NOT TO STEP OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED--AND WELL-
FUNCTIONING--BILATERAL (AND NATO) RELATIONSHIPS.
PERRY

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